

REMARKS

Applicants representatives thank Examiner Bunner and Interference Practice Specialist Cecilia Tsang for the personal interview conducted on February 15, 2006. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 713.04, Applicants are given the longer of one month or thirty days from the interview date to file a statement of the substance of the interview. The following constitutes Applicants' Statement of the Substance of the Interview, which is timely filed since 30 days from February 15, 2005 is March 17, 2006.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview

The discussion at the interview was about Applicants' plan to request an Interference with U.S. Patent No. 6,869,605, titled "BAFF, Inhibitors Thereof and Their Use in the Modulation of B-cell Response" issued March 22, 2005 to Browning et al. and assigned on its face to Biogen Idec Ma Inc., Cambridge Massachusetts.

Applicants discussed a proposed count for the interference. Applicants also proposed filing a new set of claims. It was agreed that Applicants would submit an amendment to add the proposed count and additional claims, while canceling the presently pending claims. Applicants agreed to submit this amendment on or before March 22, 2006. Applicants also indicated that they would submit an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) concomitant with the filing of the amendment. It was also agreed that Applicants would submit a Request for Interference under 37 C.F.R. § 41.202 subsequent to the filing of the amendment and IDS.

The present paper is the amendment Applicants agreed to file on or before March 22, 2006. As indicated on page 1, Applicants have also enclosed an Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO/SB/08 and copies of references J22-J29, J71-J72 and J81-J99.

Amendments to the Claims and Title

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 195-221 will be pending. Claims 85-91, 118-124, 148-180, 183-194 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus cumulatively, claims 1-194 have been cancelled. Claims 195-221 are added herein. The title of the invention has also been amended to correspond to the present claims. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed, and thus no new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendments.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants note that several Information Disclosure Statements have been filed in the present application. However, Applicants have not received initialed copies of the PTO/SB/08 forms citing references C1-C10, D1-D2, E1-E3, F1-F3, G1-G4, H1, I1-I5, which were submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on December 2, 2003, December 2, 2004, June 10, 2005, July 29, 2005, August 26, 2005, September 23, 2005 and January 20, 2006, respectively. Applicants have herewith provided copies of these PTO/SB/08 forms and respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references cited therein at the same time she considers references J1-J98 cited on the PTO/SB/08 form submitted herewith, and return signed copies of the PTO/SB/08 forms to Applicants with the next Office Action. Should the Examiner require additional copies of any of these references, please contact the undersigned.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments and remarks above be entered and made of record in the file history of the instant application. No fee is believed to be due in connection with this filing, however if Applicants are in error, please charge any fee deemed necessary to Deposit Account No. 08-3425.

Dated: March 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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